

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-5, 8-10, 13-15, 18-20, 23-25, 18-30 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, and 27 remain in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,144,529 (hereinafter "Wada"). Pursuant to an Examiner Interview conducted on February 26, 2003, Applicant has amended the claims. As stated during the interview, Wada fails to teach or suggest a slider comprising: a slider body; first and second rails extending in a longitudinal direction along the slider body where leading edges of said rails are spaced from a leading edge of the slider body; a first structure having a first depth and extending from said leading edge of the body to the leading edges of the first and second rails and between the first and second rails; a second structure having a second depth disposed adjacent to said first structure and between said first and second rails, said second depth being lower than said first depth; and wherein said second structure begins more than one-third of the length of the slider body from the leading edge of the slider body; and *a compression pad disposed proximately to a trailing edge of said slider body, said compression pad having a height equal to a height of said first and second rails and said compression pad including a third structure having a depth equal to the first depth.* (As Amended).

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a compression pad 16 (see fig.1), disposed proximately to a trailing edge of the slider body, is provided having a height equal to the height of the first and second rails 11,12 and having a third structure 16b with a depth equal to the first depth (depth of the first structure 14). Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26 have been rewritten to further bring out this feature of the present invention. No new matter has been added. (See, e.g., figure 1a; page 12, lines 11-13; and original claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-25, 17-30).

Also, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the first and second rails are generally closer to one another near the leading edge than near the trailing edge. Claims 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27 have been rewritten to further bring out this feature of the present invention. No new matter has been added. (See, e.g., figures 1a and 1b).

As stated, Wada fails to teach or suggest a compression pad 16 having a height (depth) equal to that of the first and second rails 11,12 and including a structure with a height equal to that of the first structure 14. As stated during the Examiner Interview, Applicant submits that this is a significant distinction. The compression pad, with its two heights provides lift for the slider. Wada has a structure 140 (see fig. 39) near the trailing edge of the slider. However, Wada fails to teach or suggest more than one height for that structure 140. This is significant because a single-height structure would not provide slider lift. Applicant submits that this lift is necessary to strongly oppose the vacuum effect created by the step between the first structure 14 and the second structure 15. This strong opposition of forces helps to stabilize the slider (increasing slider 'stiffness'). In addition, it allows for the slider to be less sensitive to manufacturing tolerances. Further, it is advantageous to provide lift at the trailing edge of the slider due to the fact that this is where the head is located 17 (i.e., the height from the disk surface is most crucial at this location on the slider).

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore that amended claims 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

Based on the amendments and arguments above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

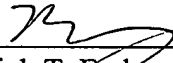
CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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